(c) & (d) National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) had organised a national conference on secondary education from 14-16, February, 2001 and Rs.3.00 lakhs were sanctioned to NIEPA for this Conference. NIEPA is a premier resource organisation fully funded by the Government. Its objectives include promotion of research in educational planning and administration, providing training and consultancy services, training and orientation of key level functionaries and senior administrators from the Centre and States and to collaborate with other agencies in the education sector.

Setting up of Astrology Institute

4367. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish an Astrology Institute in the name of Prithvi Raj Chauhan, to impart under-graduate and post-graduate level courses at the university level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grant proposed to be given for a suitable memorial for Prithvi Raj Chauhan for his heroism and valour against the aggressors?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Urdu Education

†4368 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for development of Urdu education in the country;

(b) the names of districts and blocks in Bihar that have been provided funds by Government for Urdu education;

(c) whether Muzaffarpur district of the State has been provided economic assistance for Urdu education; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Number of steps have been taken by the Central Government for development of Urdu education in the country. These include:—

(i) Launching in 1999, of scheme for appointment of Urdu teachers and to give the grant of honorarium to State Governments for teaching Urdu language in States/Uts educational institutions.

(ii) Setting up of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language in 1996 as an autonomous body. It provides financial assistance for development of Urdu language and also prepares academic literature in Urdu. It has been providing financial assistance to various volunteer organisations for setting up computerised caligraphic training centres, and so far 100 such centres have been opened with the financial assistance of NCPUL helping 7000 students to get professional qualification. It has published an encyclopaedia in Urdu, of which six volumes have so far been published. NCPUL also extends financial assistance for part-time Urdu teachers for promotion of Urdu language. It has taken up the task of translating NCERT's textbooks upto class XII and other associated textbooks in Urdu for promotion of Urdu education. The Ministry has substantially enhanced the budget of NCPUL from Rs. 550 lakhs last year to Rs. 800 lakhs in the current year.

(iii) National Open School, New Delhi has also started Urdu medium courses for class 10th & 12th.

(iv) Maulana Azad National Urdu University has been set up in Hyderabad in 1998. Its mandate is to promote and develop Urdu language and to impart vocational and technical education through Urdu medium by means of the conventional and distance education system.

Further, concerned State Governments have their own separate schemes for promotion and development of Urdu education.

(b) to (d) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Financial Assistance to Bihar by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language for Honorarium to Part-time Teachers under the Scheme of Teaching of Urdu for the Year 2000-2001

Sl. No.	BIHAR	Salaries of Urdu Teachers	Per Annum Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Ms. Shahnaz Begum(secretary) Abdul Qayum Ansari Udogik Vidyalaya Sah Prashikshan Kendra, Bhojpur Arrah (Bihar)-802301.	3 Teachers	18,000/-
2.	Mr. Abdul Bari (Secretary), AL-Qamrum Nesha Gramin Samaj Vikas Sanstha, At Usrahi, P.O. Parsauni, Distt. Madhubani.	2 Teachers	12,000/-
3.	Mohd. Akhtar (Secretary) AL-Amrun Nisa Gramin Samaj Vikas Sanstha, At Dhurwar, P.O. Parsauni, Distt. Sitamarhi	2 Teachers	12,000/-
4.	Samaj Kalyan Prishad, Arrah Mohalla Kajitola, Distt. Bhojpur Bihar-802 301.	3 Teachers	18,000/-
5.	Mr. Humayun Ansari(Secretary) Nalanda Samaj Sewa Ashram, Naseerpur, P.O. Bihar Sharif, Nalanda, Bihar	2 Teachers	12,000/-
6.	Mr. W. Ansari (Secretary) Bihar Hastkargha, Hastshilp and Resham Adyogik Vikas Sansthan, Momin Manzil, Hospital Road, Madhubani-847211.	2 Teachers	12,000/-

1	2	3	4
7.	Sh. Afroze Ahmad, (Secretary) All- Wajuddin Arabi Persian Urdu Education & Rural Social Minority Welfare Society. Vill/P.O.- Umgaon. Via: Basopatti, Madhubani (Bihar)-847 225	2 Teachers	12,000/-
8.	Sh. Afroze Ahmad, Secretary All- Amini Gramin Samaj Avam Mahila Vikas Sanstha, Vill/P.O.-Umgaon, Via: Basopatti, Madhubani-847 225	2 Teachers	12,000/-
	BIHAR	18 Teachers (8 V. Os)	1,08,000/

The following calligraphy and graphic design centres of National Council for promotion of Urdu Language have started from 1st April, 2001

Sl. No.	Centre	
1.	Calligraphy Training Centre (Ladies) Pakki Sarai, Near Muslim Club, Almirza Road, Chandwara, Muzaffarpur (Bihar).	Rs. 1.09 Lakhs per annum
2.	Markaz - e - Kitabat (Boys) Islamia Arabic College Campus, Barahampura, Muzaffarpur-842003 (Bihar).	Rs. 1.09 Lakhs per annum

Literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh

4369. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of literacy rate among tribals, Gaddis, Sippies, Lohlas, hilly people, STs/SCs and women in Himachal Pradesh, separately and district-wise; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to remove illiteracy from the State?